



**REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
MAY 6, 2011  
County Administration Center**

**Voting Members Present**

Hon. Cynthia Bashant; Susan Bower (for Alfredo Aguirre); Christine Lafontant (for Brian Albright); Mary Baum; Jorge Cabrera; Lynn Neault (for Constance Carroll); Danny Melgoza (for Supervisor Greg Cox); Margarita deRuyter; Michele Linley (for Bonnie Dumanis); Lt. Jim Bolwerk (for William D. Gore); Laura Mustari (for Paula Guerra); Margarita Holguin; Pamela Martinez (for Mack Jenkins); Lauren Chin (for Barbara Jimenez); Gina Lee (for Sharon Lawrence); Tilisha Martin; Paula Ingrum (for Sandra McBrayer); John Philips (for Thomas Edward Montgomery); Gene Nathan; Walter Philips; Meredith Riffel; Barbara Ryan; Rev. Roland E. Slade; Donald Stump; JoAnne Ventre; Loretta Middleton (for Randolph Ward); Daphne Watson; Debra Zanders-Willis

**Alternate Members Present**

Mark Nanzer

**Visitors Present**

Browder Willis (Superior Court Judge); Carolyn Levenberg (DLG-MCO); Charles Iyoho (Family & Youth Roundtable); Alejandra Gonzalez (La CUNA FFA).

**Staff Present**

Renee Rambus, Harold Randolph, Tonya Torosian

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Honorable Cynthia Bashant.

**II. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**III. Approval of the Minutes – March 4, 2011**

Motion made by Margarita Holguin and seconded by Donald Stump to accept the minutes of March 4, 2011. The motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Report from the Chair**

Judge Bashant announced that the next Commission meeting will be held on September 9, 2011 due to the Labor Day weekend.

## V. Presentations

### A. CCYF Committee Updates – Chairs/Co-Chairs

- Education Committee – Judge Browder Willis and Barbara Ryan, Chairs

Judge Willis, Chair reported:

- The purpose of the Education Committee is to addressing both the education goals of the Commission and the issues addressed by the Foster Youth Services Advisory Committee.

#### Foster Youth Services

- One of the Education Committee's goals is to develop and refine communication and coordination with families of foster youth.
- The Committee has also decided to pinpoint the focus on transportation support for foster youth related to the school stability issues.

#### Committee's Attendance Issues K-3 grade

- The second goal is to develop a more practical intervention, prevention strategy and services that will have a positive impact on the truancy issues and the dropout rates of foster youth along with the general population.
- The Commission has joined with San Ysidro School District to provide student and parent support and engagement activities with the goal of reducing absenteeism for children attending K-3 grade in San Ysidro School District.
- The first target will be the San Ysidro School District, which has the highest dropout and truancy rate in the county. A program will be developed with the graduate students from SDSU who will be placed in the schools and act as the point or lead person on community outreach. They will also be responsible for interacting with the school administration for schools that are selected. The point/lead person will give support to parents of children who need the intervention/prevention services that are being provided.
- The program will be implemented and hopefully made into a model that will encompass the County. The goal is to have a positive impact on attendance barriers for K-3 grade students.

Tonya Torosian reported:

- She welcomed the guests from the Board of Supervisors.
- Each Committee was charged with the assignment of incorporating the issue of Disproportionality in their goals.
- Each Committee has a different view in terms of disproportionality; the Education Committee decided in phase 1 to doing some in-depth assessments of the youth in the pilot project by looking at the families' challenges that are preventing them from getting the children to have positive attendance records.
- She welcomed feedback from members to assist in the process of setting up the information for assessment.
- The Education Committee meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday odd months from 1:30 – 3:00 pm at the County Office of Education, 6401 Linda Vista Road, Room 508, San Diego.

- Transition Age Youth (TAY) Committee - Carolyn Levenberg, Chair

Carolyn Levenberg, Chair reported:

- Members include representatives from HHSA, Dependency Legal Group, Casey Family Programs, Fred Finch, San Diego Youth Services, Walden Family Services, SD County Office of



Education, Probation, Voices for Children, North County Lifeline, SD Workforce Partnerships, Home Start and UPAC.

- The Committee meets the second Thursday of each month at Polinsky Pavilion, 9440 Ruffin Court, Room 15/16, 3:00 – 4:30 pm.
- The Committee 's common experiences and perceptions with the TAY population were identified as:
  - Lack of realistic housing option
  - Lack of adult support system; after care/
  - Lack of mental health services
  - Many youth will return to their biological families after emancipation and without support.
  - Youth have unrealistic expectations for emancipation.
  - Despite the efforts of multiple agencies, encouraging youth to buy into planning for their future, the youth do not report being engaged in their written plan.
- The Committee's goals:
  - Review and analyze data for strengths and gaps needs for current and former foster youth (ages 16-24)
  - Develop a white paper/report on findings with recommendations for addressing gaps (prioritized) Report Completed by 10/01/11
  - For 2012-13 implement recommended strategies in 10/01/11 report.
- Data Obtained by the Committee
  - Through the minor's attorneys, over 130 youth were surveyed. The minors were between 15- 18 and they were interviewed at their regular review hearings.
  - ILS/WIA data pending
  - LEAP Report pending
  - TAY Academy Assessment pending
- Disproportionality
  - The Committee has planned presentations about various interventions aimed at preserving familial ties and encouraging those relationships.
  - Includes examining closely the Family Finding programs.
  - The committee is also aware of HHSA's Cultural Brokers program. This program is funded with \$50,000 from CCYF and expected to help reduce the disproportionality.

A PowerPoint was presented and is available upon request by contacting the Commission office.

- Child Abuse and Family Violence Prevention Committee (CAFVPC) – Dawn Griffin and Tonya Torosian, Chairs

Tonya Torosian reported:

- She and Dr. Dawn Griffin co-chair this Committee and Dr. Griffin was unable to attend today's meeting.
- The Committee has been focusing on activities, community education and support.
- The Commission partnered with San Diego County Parks and Recreation for "It's How We Live" community event in Spring Valley on April 30.
- The Commission co-sponsored the Chula Vista "Day of the Child" also on April 30.
- The work of the CAFVPC will continue and to provide trainings. A recurring training is been offered, the "Better Outcomes Training", facilitated by Karen Martin.

- Adolescent Alcohol and Other Drug Use Committee – Mary Baum and Susan Bower, Chairs

Mary Baum, Chair reported:

- The Adolescent Alcohol and Others Drug Abuse Committee meets every 4th Tuesday of the month from 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm at 3255 Camino del Rio South, La Jolla Room.
- The next meeting is May 24, 2011.
- Members of the Adolescent Alcohol and Other Drug Use Committee have identified 2 goals to focus on.
  1. Identify and leverage funds to address gaps in treatment and prevention services
  2. Develop a Messaging Campaign to address the increased use of Marijuana by youth in San Diego County.
    - In order to address disproportionality of treatment and prevention services in areas of the County, the Adolescent Alcohol and other Drug Use Committee members wanted to research what the needs are, where they are most needed and how we can help those in need access the treatment and prevention services they seek.
    - Members reviewed 211 for functionality and whether it could be used as the platform for addressing the treatment and prevention needs and resources available to the community Countywide.
    - After more review of 211 it was suggested that a meeting with the leadership at 211 to see if we could develop a survey for the operators to answer some questions that would help the committee understand the needs of the community.
    - Tonya and Mary have scheduled a meeting with John Ohanian for May 9 to discuss this strategy and also the possible partnership with SANDAG.
    - It was decided by the Committee to develop a multi-media messaging contest to engage high school students countywide to develop messages for middle school age youth using art, video, music, poetry, etc.
    - Messaging – using social networks, YouTube, schools, media. Parent and youth campaign

## VI. Action Items (Motion Required)

1. County of San Diego Children's System of Care Training Academy request support to help sponsor the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual CSOC Conference

Motion made by Donald Stump and seconded by Loretta Middleton to approve the sponsorship of \$2,500 for the County of San Diego Children's System of Care Training Academy 10<sup>th</sup> Annual CSOC Conference on May 16, 2011. Motion passed unanimously.

2. County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation request support to help sponsor the 2011 Summer Movies in the Park

Motion made by Lt. Jim Bolwek and seconded by Rev. Rolland E. Slade to approve the sponsorship of \$5,000 for the County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation to sponsor the 2011 Summer Movies in the Park. Motion passed unanimously.

3. San Diego Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry request support to help sponsor the 2nd Annual Early Childhood Mental Health Conference titled "We Can't Wait II: Caring for Complex Children 0 -5".

Motion made by Barbara Ryan and seconded by Lynn Ceresino Neault to approve the sponsorship of \$2,500 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Early Childhood Mental Health Conference "We Can't Wait II: Caring for Complex Children 0 – 5". **Recusals for the record:** Laura Mustari



## VII. Presentations

### A. HHSA Safety Strategy Agenda, Debra Zanders-Willis, Executive Lead of the Design and Implementation Team on Preparedness and Response

Mrs. Zanders-Willis reported that the Agency came before the Commission over a year ago to discuss the Health Strategy or Building Better Health and unveiled and presented a 10 year plan of how HHSA was going to make a commitment to improve health for the residents of San Diego County. This is all part of Live Well, San Diego! which has three prongs: 1) Building Better Health; 2) Safety Strategy and 3) Thrive – Self Sufficiency. The Safety Strategy will be called Fostering Safe Communities and will also have a 10 year plan. The focus over the ten years will be how we improve safety for various communities within the county. We would like to expand beyond those families and communities to work with the schools and families that we don't come into contact with. Three focus groups have been established – 1) Prevention, 2) Protection and 3) Preparedness and Response. The focus groups are meetings and have had speakers from across the country to come in and speak about safety in different communities, working with young children, older adults, and challenged populations. The groups are in the planning stage and will be discussed more as the project unfolds and the actual action plans become developed as well as community input throughout the process.

### B. FY11-12 Operational Plan, Patti Groulx, Budget Manager

Ms. Groulx stated that HHSA Mission Statement is "To make people's lives healthier, safer, and self-sufficient by delivering essential services in San Diego County". The Agency mission is "To make people's lives healthier, safer, and self-sufficient by delivering essential services in San Diego County". This is accomplished through the leadership and dedication of Agency staff and community partners in administering essential services to people and communities with the focus of improving health, safety and self sufficiency.

The major programs Aging and Independence Services, Behavioral Health Services, Child Welfare Services, Public Health Services, Public Administrator/Public Guardian, Regional Planning and Operational Support and Administrative Support all play a critical role in the development, maintenance and enhancement of the County's health and social services safety net.

Ms. Groulx gave a brief overview of the Agency Financial hurdles which included a brief look at the State budget situation, review of the proposed FY 11/12 budget and the review of the key initiatives. A PowerPoint was presented and is available upon request by contacting the Commission office.

The schedule in preparation for the approval of the budget is:

- **May:** Advisory Board Presentations
- **May 10:** Proposed Operational Plan presented to the Board of Supervisors
- **June 6-15:** Public Hearings
- **June 15:** Last day for Advisory Committees to submit statements to Clerk of the Board
- **June 28-29:** Board deliberations and approval of Operational Plan

For additional questions regarding the budget contact:

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Andrew Pease, Assistant Finance Director, HHSA, [Andrew.Pease@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Andrew.Pease@sdcounty.ca.gov) (619) 338-2100

Patti Groulx, Revenue & Budget Manager, HHSA, [Patti.Groulx@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Patti.Groulx@sdcounty.ca.gov) (619) 338-2704

C. Fairness & Equity Committee Report, Daphyne Watson, South Bay Community Services and Jorge Cabrera, Casey Family Programs

Ms. Watson gave a brief snapshot of the history and accomplishments of the Fairness & Equity Committee. It was launched in 2005 to address the issue of over-representation and disparate outcomes for African Americans and Native Americans in Child Welfare. San Diego County was one of the first counties in the State to incorporate Fairness and Equity into their System Improvement Plan (SIP).

Mr. Cabrera reported that one of the things the Committee was charge with was being a repository of knowledge. The Committee engagement with other jurisdictions such as: King County, California and Washington and Ramsey County, Minnesota. Important outreach was connecting to the African American and American Indian Tribes. The Committee also supported the Central Region Family Finding Pilot Project. The California Disproportionality Project in 2009 – 2010 a statewide effort lead by the State in partnership with Casey Family Programs and others brought teams from across the State to explore the issue of disproportionality. San Diego County was the only county that had two teams – African American and Native American Specialized Team which expanded the knowledge of disproportionality.

Ms. Watson raised the question where do we go from here and how can we make a difference? One of the community groups "Save Our Children" is based on the central region, but the efforts are important throughout the entire County. Save Our Children is a group of community individuals coming together to address disproportionality and host community forums every three months. There is also an Action Team lead by Judge Bashant which meets monthly with the focus centered on the Cultural Brokers project funded in part by the Commission. A PowerPoint was presented and is available upon request by contacting the Commission office.

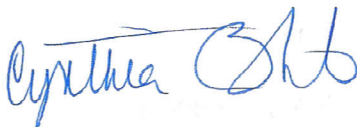
**VIII. Announcement**

Judge Bashant announced due to the Labor Day weekend that the next Commission will be held on Friday, September 9, 2011.

**IX. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



*Written by Renee Rambus*